Research Topic

Empowering the marginalized: Vikas Bharti NGO's role in transforming the lives of tribals in Jharkhand with special reference to Gumla and Ranchi districts

Ph.D Research Proposal

Department of Political Science

Ranchi University, Ranchi

(Faculty of Social Sciences)

Research Supervisor	**Research Scholar**
Dr. Dhirendra Tripathi	Subhi Mishra
Assistant Professor	UGC-NET, June2023
Department of Political Science Ranchi University	Department of Political Science, Ranchi University

Contents	**Page No.**
Introduction	1
State of the Art	1-3
Review of literature	3-5
Objectives of the Investigation	5
Research Hypothesis	5-6
Research Design & Methodology	7
Source of Data & tools to be used in Data Collection	8
Significance of the Study	9
Relevance of the Research	10-11
Limitations of Research	12
Tentative Chapterisation	13
Future Work	
Related references	14-15

Introduction

A Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) is a non-profit, voluntary citizens group organized to address specific cultural, economic, educational, religious, or social causes. These organizations operate on local, national, or international levels and focus on issues such as education, environmental conservation, social welfare, rural development, sanitation, healthcare, and human rights. According to the World Bank, NGOs are "private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development." They encompass a diverse range of groups and institutions that are largely independent of government, characterized primarily by humanitarian or cooperative, rather than commercial, objectives. Although, the NGO sector these days has become increasingly professionalised over the last two decades, principles of altruism and voluntarism remain key defining characteristics (Muthupandian, 2006).

State of the Art

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in India, acting as a driving force for societal development. Despite their significance, they face several challenges such as funding issues, political interference, competition from other NGOs, a shortage of dedicated manpower, and co-option by the government, which negatively impact the sector. Staying updated on all levels, from micro to macro, is particularly difficult in this field. NGOs do not just provide food, shelter, and clothing to the needy in a nation with a population of 1.44 billion in 2024; they also create employment for millions and deliver justice to the weaker sections of society. They serve as a vital conduit for transferring resources from the affluent to the impoverished, from the healthy to the needy, and for advocating on behalf of those unable to do so themselves. Additionally, NGOs contribute significantly in areas such as water management, tree plantation, sanitation, sports, and public awareness campaigns. However, the question remains whether NGOs are effectively fulfilling their roles and what specific challenges they face while addressing these issues. To address

these questions, a study titled **"Empowering the marginalized: Vikas Bharti NGO's role in Transforming the lives of tribals in Jharkhand"** has been conducted to assess the performance of NGO's in India. Vikas Bharti NGO Bishunpur, an esteemed NGO, has been instrumental in fostering sustainable development and empowering vulnerable communities in the Bishunpur region. For the noble cause of serving the poor in hard-to-reach tribal and primitive areas, four scholars—Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Dr. Rakesh Popli, alumni of IIT Kanpur, Dr. Rajneesh Arora, and Sri Ashok Rai, famously known as Sri Ashok Bhagat "Baba," an alumnus of Gorakhpur

University—decided with utmost zeal to accept the challenges and serve the struggling poor. They reached the Bishunpur block of Gumla district in Jharkhand (then Bihar) within the Netarhat Valley. Upon arrival, they were shocked by the backwardness and superstitions that led to a lack of education, poor healthcare, poverty, and lack of awareness among the tribals.

After a comprehensive survey and situation analysis, they identified key issues: Education, Health, Poverty, Community Mobilization, Awareness, and Skill Development. They decided to establish an organization dedicated to serving mankind and the poor. Thus, on January 14, 1983, the NGO Vikas Bharti Bishunpur was founded under the Society Registration Act-21, 1860, registered with the Bihar Government and later with the Jharkhand Government in 2006, with its head office in Bishunpur and Sri Ashok Bhagat as its Secretary. Since its inception, Vikas Bharti Bishunpur has continuously worked for the all-round development of tribals and marginalized groups.

Forming a socio-economic forum called "Vikas Bharti," they resolved to address these issues through community participation, gradually evolving as a catalyst for social change and the eradication of social evils. Vikas Bharti Bishunpur created an atmosphere to save and serve the ecology, maintaining ecological balance—a movement highly appreciated and rewarded by the President of India. They opened pathways to self-employment and self-reliance by enhancing traditional skills and art, supporting the rural mass with technological inputs, fiscal inputs, marketing networks, and human resources.

Taking on the challenge of socio-economic development and awareness, this initiative emerged as GRAM SWARAJ ABHIYAAN, a movement for human rights like RTI,

MGNREGA, VAN ADHIKARITA etc. Empowerment of youth and women became a visible mission through their socio-cultural, sports, and other day-to-day activities.

On Makar Sankranti in 1983, Vikas Bharti was formally established as a social organization in Bishunpur, Gumla. In a short time, Vikas Bharti proved itself as an organization for social transformation and a friend in need for the downtrodden tribal folk. The mission to provide Education, Health, Livelihood, Social Harmony, and Self-Employment, and to promote Self reliance, became the driving force for the organization. Vikas Bharti has emerged as an organization addressing diverse development issues with an extensive presence in the region. This study would explore the depth and breadth of Vikas Bharti's efforts, with a special emphasis on their work with tribals. Understanding the organization's impact will offer valuable lessons for similar initiatives globally.

Review of Literature

Pagaria (2006) observed that Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are essential in integrating the underprivileged and disadvantaged into mainstream society. Over time, there has been significant growth in both their physical presence and financial activities. NGOs have expanded their reach from national to international levels, with their funding sources diversifying from private donations to contributions from international funding agencies.

Gopisetti and Venkateshwarlu (2008) argued that Self Help Groups (SHGs) serve as a mechanism for mutual assistance and support by facilitating the sharing of ideas, experiences, information, and other resources. These groups can be seen as both a process and an institution for socio-economic transformation, ultimately leading to the empowerment of the rural poor.

Ramesh (2004) NGOs working with women workers play a crucial role in three distinct ways:

1. They can assist women in organizing as workers, tailoring their approach to the women's current situation and their level of awareness.
2. They can offer background support by providing legal and technical information.
3. They can aid workers and their representatives in strategizing for organization.

NGOs have demonstrated their dynamism in defending the rights of women workers.

Dr. Prabhat Kumar Singh (2018) In his research, Dr. Singh highlighted the positive impacts of NGOs on tribal development in India, particularly in education, health care, and vocational training. Despite these efforts, the overall situation remains mixed due to ongoing challenges such as market and state failures. While NGOs have made notable strides, more consistent and sufficient interventions are necessary to address the complex issues faced by tribal communities.

Uday Singh Rajput (2015) Rajput's study in the Jhabua district of western Madhya Pradesh revealed that many NGOs are involved in natural resource management, watershed management, forest conservation, microcredit provision, self-help group formation, health and education promotion, and revenue generation. He also noted the presence of superstitions, a lack of monitoring mechanisms, the influence of affluent individuals, and poor coordination among NGOs in the region.

Minakshi Kumari Ravi (2018) Ravi emphasized the role of NGOs in India as essential intermediaries between grassroots communities, civil society, and the state. They significantly contribute to raising awareness, executing development programs, and empowering marginalized groups, including tribal communities. By preserving cultural diversity, promoting socio-economic advancement, and encouraging voluntary work, NGOs aid in the progress and transformation of Indian society. In states like Jharkhand, NGOs have been especially active in tribal upliftment and development, stressing the importance of ongoing support and cooperation between NGOs, the government, and local communities for sustainable and inclusive development.

Apparo Thamminaina (2018) Thamminaina found that NGOs with a deep understanding of the community and a culturally sensitive approach can build trust and forge strong relationships with the people they serve. However, challenges such as program implementation, sustaining results, inconsistent funding, and mistrust need to be addressed. The effectiveness of NGOs in community development can be enhanced through collaborative efforts, transparent business practices, and proactive advocacy roles. By working together, particularly in tribal areas, NGOs can amplify their impact and act as catalysts for overall development.

Jayanta Krishna Sarmah (2007): The author highlighted that NGOs, with their unique characteristics and contributions, play a crucial role in the development of tribal communities and social welfare. Their creativity, dedicated staff, adaptability, close community ties, high motivation levels, and efficient processes allow them to effectively address the specific challenges faced by indigenous communities. Emphasizing NGOs' contributions to tribal development can lead to enhanced collaboration, innovative solutions, and positive impacts on the welfare of tribal populations.

Vikas Bharti Journal on education promoted the Shram Niketan model which operates on the principle that children learn quickly and effectively when they are in an environment similar to the one they were born and raised in. This model incorporates a teaching-learning pedagogy based on the concept of "Learning While Working."

Problem to be Investigated

1. How effective have been the educational initiatives of Vikas Bharti NGO in enhancing literacy and further education among tribal women?
2. What role do local leaders and community members play in supporting or hindering the empowerment initiatives of these NGO's?
3. How has Vikas Bharti NGO contributed in improving healthcare and lifestyle of PVTG's of Jharkhand?

Objective of the Investigation

1. To study various methods used by Vikas Bharti NGO specially in promoting Education among tribal communities?

2. To identify hindrances faced by Vikas Bharti NGO while improving the lifestyle of PVTG's residing in the Gumla and Ranchi district of Jharkhand?

3. To evaluate the effectiveness of Vikas Bharti NGO in educational, healthcare, livelihood, and environmental programs.

4. To identify the key factors contributing to the success of an NGO specially with reference to Vikas Bharti NGO Bishunpur.

Research Hypothesis

1. Vikas Bharti NGO educational programs significantly improved literacy rates among tribals residing in Gumla and Ranchi districts of Jharkhand.

2. Vikas Bharti NGO environmental conservation initiatives contributed to sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity preservation.

Research design and Methodology

The nature of study would be both qualitative (including personal interview, case studies) and quantitative (including surveys, data analysis) and the principal method would be descriptive research.

Sources of Data and tools to be used in Collection of data

Data would be collected from PVTG's residing in Gumla and Ranchi district in a structured questionnaire and would be edited, coded, classified and analysed by using

Microsoft Excel. Interpretation/findings would be carried out with descriptive statistical analysis viz Percentage value, Chi-square test etc.

Sources

1. **PRIMARY DATA**: Data will be collected in structured questionnaire & personal interview.
2. **SECONDARY DATA**: For secondary data related to Tribals and Women empowerment is to be collected from journals, pamphlets, leaflets, different website (including Vikas Bharti annual report), etc.

Sample Design

Vikas Bharti NGO is working for most backward and under privileged communities in all 24 districts of Jharkhand comprising 260 blocks. Sample size selected for this study purpose will be from few districts of Jharkhand mainly Gumla and Ranchi. From these districts sample would be collected from villages, size is calculated using standard formula for sample size selection with confidence level of 95% and margin of error as
2.5%.

Significance of the study

The study will help in contributing to the existing knowledge on NGO led community development. The findings will not only help Vikas Bharti NGO in refining its strategies but also will serve as a guide for other NGO's working with marginalised communities in terms of operational effectiveness, resource management and strategic

planning. Overall study on Vikas Bharti NGO is vital for enhancing the understanding of rural development practices specially in uplifting the PVTG.'s and contributing to the broader goals of social and economic development.

Its Relevance to the Present-day problem

Vikas Bharti NGO of Bishunpur is highly relevant in addressing contemporary issues:

Education: Vikas Bharti's efforts in improving rural education by ensuring equitable access to quality education through innovative solutions like community learning centres and digital literacy program. Currently running 14 residential centres for both boys and girls of tribal and marginalized community. It also established 5 formal schools, 3PVTG schools and one ST school for both boys and girls with moto of providing quality education at low cost. Bishunpur is a tribal-dominated block with around 90 percent of its population belonging to various tribal communities. This area is particularly notable due to the significant presence of primitive tribal groups inhabiting the upper reaches of the Chotanagpur plateau. Six major primitive tribal groups reside in this region: Asurs, Birjia, Korba, Hill Khadia, Birhor, and Parhia.

Shram Niketan: An Alternative Learning Model for Tribal Children promoted by Vikas Bharti NGO Bishunpur.

Shram Niketan is designed to support children from the following categories:

- Children of primitive tribal groups
- Orphans from tribal communities
- Children of poor migrant labourers

- Children with a single parent
- Handicapped children
- Deserted or disowned children

The region in and around Bishunpur is heavily influenced by communist extremist groups under the Naxalite movement. Children in these families often become orphaned due to the arrest or death of one or both parents in police encounters. These children face stigmatization and psychological barriers while entering formal schooling. Shram Niketan supports and embraces these deprived, innocent children, who are often victims of the Naxalite movement.

The selection of children for Shram Niketan involves the following steps:

a. Information is provided to Vikas Bharti staff by members of village-level institutions or individuals from a particular area.

b. Vikas Bharti staff relay this information to the authorities at Shram Niketan.

c. A team of teachers from Shram Niketan visits the villages and obtains consent from the Gram

Sabha.

d. The child is then admitted to Shram Niketan.

2. **Protection & welfare**: Organisation works day and night so to stop child labour, their trafficking along with to minimize the migration of women and children to other states, it started Children's home in the year 2013 with support of Department of Women, Child Development and Social Security, Government of Jharkhand and Integrated Child Protection Scheme

3. **Women Empowerment**: The Nari Niketan Scheme in Gumla by Women, Child

Development and Social Security Department of Jharkhand is a vital initiative for supporting and empowering women in distress. Its comprehensive approach to providing shelter, rehabilitation, skill development, and legal aid addresses many of the challenges faced by women today. By focusing on these areas, the scheme not only helps individual women but also contributes to broader societal changes towards promoting gender equality and empowerment.

4. **Health, Nutrition & Sanitation**: Vikas Bharti NGO work on health, nutrition, and sanitation is integral to its mission of holistic rural development. It addressed these areas by opening various health care centres like Kalyan hospital Banmakri in east Singhbhum, Sukka Birijia Smriti hospital, Bishunpur.

On occasion of World Environment day 5th June 2022 it planted more than 50,000 saplings in that year.

Limitations of the study:

1. The sample of study is restricted to rural and remote areas making it difficult to conduct on ground studies surveys or interviews.
2. Primary data collected through the sample survey would not be free from biases.
3. The impact of programs run by Vikas Bharti NGO might be localized, making it challenging to generalize findings to a broader context. Thus, it would be difficult to assess the broader applicability or scalability of the NGO's initiative.

Tentative Chapterisation

Chapter 1: Detailed review of Vikas Bharti's history and mission.

Chapter 2: Overview of Tribal issues prevailing in Jharkhand.

Chapter 3: Socio-Economic Initiatives by Vikas Bharti NGO, Case studies of successful interventions.

Chapter 4: Initiatives aimed at preserving tribal culture & leadership along with challenges faced by Vikas Bharti NGO.

Chapter 5: Findings & Suggestions for future research.

Chapter 6: Conclusion.

References

- Muthupandian. K.S. (2006). Foreign Contribution to NGOs. *Journal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India*, Vol. 55, No.12, p. 1725

- Pagaria, Anand (2006). NGO's - Accounting and Legal Intricacies", Journal of the Chartered Accountants of India, Vol. 55, No. 12, p. 1716.

- Gopselti, Rambabu and Venkateshwarlu, H. (2008). Product Management of Self Help

  Groups in Andhra Pradesh A study. *Indian Journal of Marketing, Vol. 28,*No. 3.

- Brown, David L., Pankaj S. Jain and Uvin Peter (2000), Ramesh, Chandra Globalisations and Technological Change. *Globalisation, Liberalisation Privatisation and Indian Policy*. vol. 7, pp. 144 -147.

- Singh, P. K. (2018). The role of NGOs in tribal development in India. Literary Endeavour, pp-156-157.

- Rajput, U. S. (2015). Role of NGOs in Tribal Development in Jhabua District of Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh Journal of Social Sciences, 20(2), 101.

- Khan, M. (2014). Role of NGO in Development of Tribal Society. Mind and Society, 3(01-02), 100-104.

- Thamminaina, A. (2018). Catalysts but Not Magicians: Role of NGOs in the Tribal Development. SAGE Open, 8(2).

- Sarmah, J. K. (2007). Role of Non-Governmental Organisations for Tribal Development and Social Welfare. The Indian Journal of Political Science, 68(3), 534– 546.

- Journal, A Concept Note on Alternative Learning Model for Tribal Children

  Promoted By Vikas Bharti Bishunpur.

- Journal, Janjati Mahila Swawlamban promoted by Vikas Bharti Bishunpur.

- Journal, Mahila Udyam Vikas promoted by Vikas Bharti Bishunpur.

- Vikas Bharti journal 1983-1990

- Vikas Bharti journal 1990- 2000

- Vikas Bharti journal 2000-2010
- Vikas Bharti annual report 2010-11
- Vikas Bharti annual report 2012-13
- Vikas Bharti annual report 2014-15
- Vikas Bharti annual report 2016-17
- Vikas Bharti annual report 2018-19
- Vikas Bharti annual report 2020-21
- Vikas Bharti annual report 2022-23